



IMMUNISATION POLICY

Aim:

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

Explanation:

It is imperative that children are kept safe and healthy at all times in the centre environment.

Implementation:

- Families must provide an Immunisation History Statement (IHS) or acceptable form listed below, before their child can attend the Service.
- This I H S will document the state of the child's immunisation and any action the family must take.
- This I H S evidence must be kept in the child's file.
- The child who is not immunized will be excluded from care in the event of an infectious illness that immunization exists for. The child will be able to return to the centre according to the time permitting in the Exclusion Guidelines and when there is no further outbreaks within the Centre.
- Parents/guardians must provide the Service with an updated copy of their child's Immunisation History Statement record when the child receives a vaccine which is on the National or State Immunisation schedule. We will regularly remind parents to do this via newsletters, emails or letters.

New childcare vaccination requirements from 1 January 2018 from NSW Government Health

The NSW Parliament has passed a Bill to amend the Public Health Act to strengthen vaccination enrolment requirements in child care (also known as early childhood education and care).

From 1 January 2018:

- children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection will no longer be able to be enrolled in child care (children who are enrolled prior to 1 January 2018 will not be affected by the changed requirements, that is, if enrolling a child in 2017 to commence child care in 2018, parents may continue to submit any one of the four existing forms).
- it will be an offence (with a penalty of 50 penalty units) for a principal to fail to comply with the child care vaccination enrolment requirements.
- it will be an offence (with a penalty of 50 penalty units) for a person to forge or falsify a vaccination certificate.

From 1 January 2018, parents must provide a copy of one or more of the following documents to enrol in a child care centre:

- an [AIR Immunisation History Statement](#) which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations or
- an [AIR Immunisation History Form](#) on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule (temporary for 6 months only) or

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- an [AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form](#) which has been certified by a GP.

No other form of documentation is acceptable (i.e. the Interim Vaccination Objection Form or Blue Book). The documents must be stored by the director in a secure location for 3 years, unless a child transfers to another child care centre.

The [NSW Immunisation Schedule](#) sets out the age-appropriate vaccines for children and the AIR Immunisation History Statement will indicate if the child is up to date with their vaccinations.

Principals/ Directors of child care centres cannot enrol children if the required documents are not provided.

The following are **permanently exempt** from the new requirements:

- children who are enrolled in formal schooling (for example, attending before and after school care both on school campuses or externally)
- services providing education and care to children primarily on an ad hoc, temporary or casual basis (for example, crèches in shopping centres and gyms).

The following classes of children are **temporarily exempt** from the new requirements and the documentation must be provided **within 12 weeks** from the date of enrolment in the child care facility:

- those who are subject to a guardianship order under section 79A of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- those who have been placed in out-of-home care
- those who are being cared for by an adult who is not the child's parent due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or incapacity
- those who have been evacuated following a state of emergency (for example, a declared natural disaster)
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children.

Immunisation of Staff

- It is vital that educators and other staff are up to date with their vaccinations.
- Immunisation protects not only the staff, but also the young children they work with.



- To protect these young children, educators and staff at The Rumpus Room are required to maintain their “up to date” immunisation status and to respond to Health Department’s alerts or advices for Child Care educators to be vaccinated.
- The consequence to staff who refuse reasonable requests for immunisation include:
 - Being restricted to working with children over 12 months of age,
 - Potentially having to take antibiotics during outbreaks of bacterial disease that are vaccine preventable, even if the educator is not ill.
 - Being excluded from work during outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- All new and current staff are to complete an immunisation status record.
- All staff are to report immunisation updates so that they can be added to their record.
- Staff are to be provided with information about vaccine preventable diseases.
- The service will take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated.
- The service will document advice given to educators and other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests.

Recommended Vaccinations for educators and other staff.

The NHMRC recommends all educators and staff are immunised against:

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) - this is especially important for those caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated. Even if the adult was vaccinated in childhood, booster vaccination may be necessary because immunity to pertussis decreases over time. Booster recommended every 10 years. See note below

Measles, Mumps Rubella (MMR) for those born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or who do not have antibodies against rubella.

Varicella for those who have not previously had varicella (a blood test is required to prove previous infection).

Hepatitis A because young children can be infectious even if they are not showing any symptoms.

All staff should consider having yearly **influenza** vaccinations. Influenza is very infectious and can spread through the air by coughing and sneezing as well as by hands, cups and other objects that have been in contact with the infected person’s mouth or nose.

Additional Vaccinations are recommended for special categories of educators and other staff.



Hepatitis B for those who care for children with intellectual disabilities.

Japanese encephalitis for those who work in the outer Torres Strait islands for one month or more in the wet season.

The Rumpus Room also requests educators and other staff to be immunised against **Chicken Pox**) and to keep their **Tetanus** (Booster recommended every 10 years. See note below) up to date specifically for their own protection.

Educators who are pregnant or immunocompromised should seek advice from their doctor about vaccinations. Some vaccinations are not recommended during pregnancy.

For Infectious Diseases during pregnancy see "Staying Healthy 5th Edition. NHMRC.

Please read precautions to protect yourself from **Cytomegalovirus (CMV)**

All educators and other staff are required to sign an Educator Acknowledgement Risk of Infectious Disease form. See below.

The Australian Immunisation Handbook (available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home>) recommends:

Staff working in Early Childhood Education and Care to have a booster does of dTpa vaccine every 10 years.

This policy links to the following NQS:
National Quality Standards: 2.1.2

See Appendix 1-National Law (section) and National Regulations (regulation)

Advice from 5th Edition Staying Healthy. From National Health and Medical Research Council